

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 EB-07 AID-05 OIC-02 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04 INR-07 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-05 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /128 W  
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7647

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS USUN 5220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, UNEP, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 29TH UNGA - SECOND COMMITTEE - ITEM 12 - ECOSOC REPORT

(ENVIRONMENT) UPPER VOLTAN RES RE DESERTIFICATION A/C.

2/L.1370

REF: (A) USUN 5061 (B) USUN 5098

SUMMARY. THIS MSG SUMMARIZES RESULTS OF LATEST CONSULTATIONS  
(NOV 19) WITH UPPER VOLTAN DEL AND OTHERS ON DRAFT RES  
A/C.2/L.1370. END SUMMARY.

1. INFORMAL MEETING ON DRAFT RES A/C.2/L.1370 HELD NOV 19  
P.M. ATTENDANCE BESIDES US INCLUDED: FRANCE, JAPAN,  
UPPER VOLTA, MOROCCO, UK, FRG, CANADA, TUNISIA, AUSTRALIA.

2. UK DEL, AFTER BEING ASSURED BY UPPER VOLTAN DEL THAT  
QUESTION OF CONFERENCE PER SE WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE, WENT  
ON TO PROPOSE FORMULATION FOR OP PARAS 1, 2 AND 3 ROUGHLY  
THE SAME AS THOSE PROPOSED IN REF (B) EXCEPT THAT PARA 2  
WOULD "DECIDE IN ORDER TO LAUNCH THIS PROGRAM (I.E.

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COUNTER-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM) THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONVENED." ADDITIONALLY, INSTEAD OF

DELETING EXISTING OP PARAS 4 AND 5, THESE PARAS WOULD NOW BE INCLUDED WITH A NUMBER OF LANGUAGE CHANGES BUT WITH GENERAL THRUST REMAINING ABOUT THE SAME AS IN DRAFT RES. UK DEL ALSO PROPOSED THAT RESOLUTION SHOULD CONTAIN LANGUAGE SHOWING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREPARATORY ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE. WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE CONFERENCE PER SE WAS NON-NEGOTIABLE THAT HIS FORMULATION SHOULD PRODUCE "A MINIMUM OF DISCONTENT, WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF COMPROMISE" AND URGED THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS EXAMINE THE ADVANTAGES IN SUCH A COMPROMISE.

3. CANADIAN DEL INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH UPPER VOLTAN RES. BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RES CANTAIN LANGUAGE SHOWING THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION (MINISTERIAL, SENIOR LEVEL, TECHNICAL) AT THE CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS LANGUAGE THAT WOULD SHOW THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEW AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS CREATED, AND THAT UNEP RATHER THAN UNDP SHOULD ASSUME THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DATA COLLECTION. WENT ON THE SAY THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE IN 1976 RATHER THAN 1977.

4. FRG DEL STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE WITH UK AND CANADA PROPOSALS BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE A BROADENING OF THE MANDATE OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE CREATED BY ECOSOC RES 1898 RATHER THAN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW "COORDINATING MACHINERY" AS CALLED FOR IN THE DRAFT RES. ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE LANGUAGE WHICH LINKED THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE WITH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE. (COMMENT. THESE ALSO AUS-TRALIAN CONCERNS.)

5. FRENCH DEL STATED FRANCE HAD COMPLETE SYMPATHY WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE BUT OBJECTS STRENUOUSLY TO THE PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE CONFERENCE IS TO BE BROUGHT INTO BEING, I.E. DECISION BELONGS TO ECOSOC NOT THE GA. WENT ON THE SAY THAT AFTER RES IS PASSED FRENCH DEL WILL TAKE THE FLOOR AND MAKE STRONG RESERVATIONS.

6. US (KLEIN) STATED THAT THE US WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING FORMALLY TABLING AN AMENDMENT TO UPPER VOLTA RES ALONG THE  
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LINES SET FORTH IN REF (B).

7. UPPER VOLTA DEL ACCEPTED THE SPIRIT OF THE UK, CANADIAN AND FRG PROPOSALS AND SAID HE WOULD WORK THESE PROPOSALS, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, INTO A REVISED DRAFT THAT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP LATER IN WEEK.

8. COMMENT. IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT, BASED ON THE REMARKS BY THE UK, FRG AND CANADA, THAT THE WEO SUPPORT THAT WE THOUGHT WAS FORTHCOMING TO DEFLECT CONFERENCE AND

REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT REF(A) IS WEAKENING. (AS REPORTED  
REF(B) JAPAN ALSO SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO LINE UP WITH "COM-  
PROMISE" GROUP.) LIKELY OUTCOME AS WE SEE IT NOW IS A MUCH  
IMPROVED DRAFT, WITH THE CONFERENCE BEING AN ELEMENT OF  
A COUNTER-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAM AND NOT AN END IN ITSELF;  
AND WITH UNCERTAINTIES RELATED TO CONFERENCE MORE FULLY  
RESOLVED. IN VIEW WEAKENING OF WEO WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED  
IN AN ISOLATED OBJECTION TO WHAT MOST CERTAINLY WILL BE  
AN IMPROVED TEXT. WE ALSO SEE ADVANTAGES TO US IN SUPPORTING  
IMPROVED TEXT (POSSIBLY WITH STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS  
AFTER VOTE) SINCE UPPER VOLTA, WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE  
IN THE G-77, CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE HELPFUL TO US IN POPULATION  
RES AND OTHER RESES NOW OUTSTANDING AND ON WHICH WE NEGOTIATING.  
END COMMENT.  
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